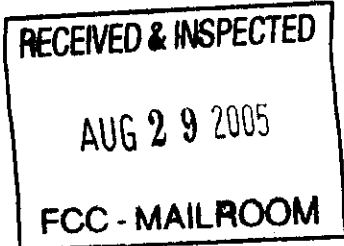


Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554



In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Section 97.501(a))
WT Docket No. 05-235)
Elimination of Amateur Extra)
Class 5 WPM Morse code exams)

I am an Amateur Extra Class radio licensee, K0IC. I have been a radio amateur since 1971. I have been an Amateur Extra Class licensee since 1979. I hold a General Radiotelephone FCC License no. PG-17-12556. I have worked full-time in broadcast engineering for over twelve years before a genetic disease, Ankylosing Spondylitis, caused me to be uninsurable, hence unemployable in real world environments. I have a lifting restriction which may or may not make me a candidate for automatic disability declaration. I have a restrictive lung disease which may or may not go back to the 1980s. I was fired in 1989. Since I found out I was really unemployable, I have been adversely impacted mentally when so-called experts seemed more interested in putting me on SSDI than my earned SSDI pension. I am told by legal counsel I have grounds to sue over. Inertia on my part keeps me from suing. Most months I only have around \$50 a month to spend. I pay auto insurance of some \$200 plus \$50 associate fees per year. I own a 1980 Oldsmobile which requires a quart of oil per 100 miles. Morse code is perfect for a disabled person as I. I belong to Handihams. According to Handihams, some people are so disabled that Morse code might be their only means to the outside world for communications. I am very sorry if the Commission now wants to cut off Morse code testing for Amateur

Extra Class licensees who have sensory challenges. I thought the United States wants to lead on the world stage and not destroy the Morse code skill that I think needs to be preserved for posterity. I hope the Commission does not want to be penny wise and pound foolish. According to the Laws of Physics, one can get twelve Morse code stations, or channels, in the same spectrum of one SSB bandwidth. If one tunes with one's ears, I think 24 or maybe 48+ Morse code channels could be put in the same SSB bandwidth. I think SSB should be in question, not Morse code. Morse code, thanks to the Q signals, is an international language. Anyone who has Morse code skill and/or a CW interface can talk any language world-wide. SSB and other data modes can never do that. I think data such as PSK-31 is as robust as Morse code but requires a pricey computer and interface. Handiham's will not provide me due to economics. I have a Kenwood TS-140S from Handiham's which works most of the time but is basically worn out from previous use. I use CW and SSB. I know Morse code is the biggest bang for the buck compared to all other Commission authorized modes. Not only power wise but also spectrum wise. I trust the Commission will do what is best for humankind and not what is a thrill for the wasteful modes at the expense of Morse code. Let the Commission lead by example for a skilled Morse code user such as myself and keep Morse code legal in the United States.

A.R.S. KOIC

Ronald Dale Erickson

405 Omaha Ave., P.O. Box 364

Essex, Iowa 51638-0364